WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fatal Accidents on National Highways

*342. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the fatal road accidents on the country's highways and the percentage by which such accidents have risen during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have critically evaluated the factors responsible for the rising number of such fatal road accidents besides examining the highways designs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures contemplated by Government to make the National Highways more safe ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [(MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI)] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The data on road accidents on the National Highways are collected annually from the States. As per information available, for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 the percentage rise in number of fatalities on National Highways each year has been about 3.2%, 4.5% and 3.8% respectively. The data for years 1998, 1999 and 2000 are provisional and as such percentage increase are also provisional.

(c) and (d) analysis of the various road accidents attributes the causes of road accidents to drivers, pedestrians/passengers, mechanical defects in motor vehicles, bad weather, condition of roads and other causes.

(e) Necessary measures of road Safety on all National Highways are incorporated in the Road Design at the detailed project report stage for the concerned National Highways. The Government is taking a number of steps besides highway design to improve the road safety on National Highways. These include :

(i) Giving grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes in order to create awareness among the public.

(ii) Refresher training of Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers and use of driving simulators.

(iii) Publicity campaign on Road Safety Awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(iv) National Award has been instituted for voluntary organizations/ individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(v) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organizaed for school children for creating awareness among the school children.

(vi) Observance of Road Safety Week in the first week of every year across the country.

(vii) Annual fitness certificate of commercial vehicles is necessary as per provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(viii) Introduction of Smart Card, based driving licenses.

(ix) Transport Minister's Trophy for State Transport Undertakings having lowest accident record, etc.

(x) Provision of cranes and ambulances under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme to States/NGOs, etc.

(xi) Road Patrolling on a part of National Highways-8 has been taken up as an experimental measure.

Labour Reforms

*343. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce labour reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the reasons for delay in introducing labour reforms in the wake of introduction of structural reforms since 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness and employment generation and to update the provisions, especially since the introduction of economic reforms beginning 1991, need has been felt from time